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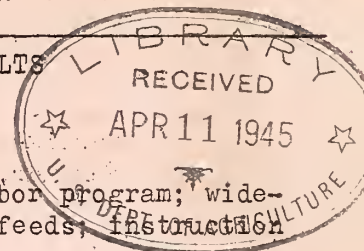
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Extension Service - United States Department of Agriculture

WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS



Some high lights in this week's summary: Progress of farm labor program; wide-spread activity in food preservation; increasing shortage of feeds; instruction in making and repair of farm equipment.

KANSAS

July 12, 1943

Farm labor. - Program functioning efficiently. In all counties harvest labor from outside areas was greater than anticipated. Local recruitment of help from towns was highly satisfactory, and in many counties response was beyond expectation.

Egg production. - Achievement of maximum egg production is major aim of wartime poultry extension program. Production goal for 1943 is 12 percent increase over 1942. In first 5 months of year, goal was exceeded, with increase of 16 percent over same months of 1942; 1,198 million eggs produced, compared with 1,023 in 1942. Past hatching season was best ever experienced by Kansas hatcheries. Producers plan to keep most of pullets for flock replacement. Number of laying hens will approach 20 million by January 1, 1944 - largest number on record. Major problem, which may curtail future egg production, is shortage of necessary feed. Poultrymen cannot get protein supplements for home-mixed mash and must buy commercial mixed mashes. Sufficient quantities of such feeds may not be available. If satisfactory feed-egg ratio is maintained, egg production should continue to increase in 1944.

Beef cattle. - Cattlemen being urged to get all possible gain from cattle on grass and roughages and use minimum of grain in finishing for market. Kansas grass and soybeans can put on original 800 pounds of 1,000-pound steer, leaving only 200 pounds to be obtained from Nation's grain supply. Beef cattle are easily adapted to this program and for over-all production can return 1,000 pounds or more live weight of slaughter-grade beef with minimum of grain.

Agronomy. - Campaign carried on in 20 northwest Kansas counties for increased acreage of dry edible beans, especially pinto beans. Sorghum production for livestock feed being promoted. In southwest Kansas increase in broomcorn acreage urged. Extensive soybean program carried on in southeast Kansas through series of farmyard meetings. In one county 900 signed up to grow soybeans. Twelve soybean demonstrations in 11 counties will be used for tours in fall.

Farm management.— Emphasis placed on revised farm plans for increased feed production, raising more protein crops and feed grains, adoption of labor-saving practices, and cooperative use of machinery to maintain wartime production. At 38 county summary meetings, leaders in farm-management associations were given reports of 1942 records, outlook information and suggestions for improved farm plans. County agents given suggestions for news articles and radio talks on wartime farm management and production; adjustment of farm plans to meet war demands, and reduction of costs.

MISSOURI

July 1, 1943

Farm labor.— During June, 20,404 workers were placed on farms for long or short periods in wartime production. Included were 9,132 men, and 4,934 women, 6,338 youth. Greatest number of placements was in southeast Missouri, where cotton chopping of weedy crop required much labor. Many workers used in southwest Missouri to complete strawberry harvest and start picking green beans. Areas around larger cities also made many placements.

Townspeople played big part in harvest of oats, wheat, and hay. Many towns held enlistment campaigns to get businessmen to help with crops after regular hours. Number of towns sent 12 to 50 businessmen out of each day to help in harvesting. Near Lamar, 70 nonfarm workers, including 48 businessmen working after 6 p.m., shocked 504 acres of oats and wheat in 2 weeks.

Even in most acute labor-shortage area — southeast Missouri — little cotton was lost for lack of labor. However, floods caused some damage, and heavy rains kept workers from fields and caused so much weedy growth that some cottonfields were plowed up and planted to other crops. Rain also delayed corn work and hay harvesting.

County agents, many with aid of labor assistants, made surveys of local needs and worked vigorously to find full-time and part-time farm help. Business and civic organizations helped in enlistment of Crop Corps workers. State office used news stories, radio talks and interviews, advertising layouts, and posters to promote farm labor program and distributed 3,000 leaflets prepared in Washington.

Soil improvement.— In spite of excessive rains and labor shortage, many counties have made good progress in production and distribution of agricultural lime. In Gasconade County, goal of 12,000 tons was set for year by county soil-improvement association — one of 54 set up by Extension. Last year these associations were responsible for over half of State's total of 1,680,000 tons of lime used.

After 5 years as TVA test administrator, a St. Charles County farmer reported to Extension that lime, high-analysis phosphate, and soil-saving methods have improved his farm so much he not gets 3/4 more hay per acre, 7 to 10 more bushels of grain, and his pastures carry 2 to 3 times as many head of livestock. He no longer has ditches in fields and has only slight loss from erosion. He has three-fourths of his cultivated land terraced, all of it limed, and has replaced most of his corn with wheat, barley, and rye.

Flood rehabilitation.- Farmers on lowlands of 54 counties have been helped in restoring farms to production by Extension program through county agents and farm leaders. Information was sent out on health measures, latest planting dates for field and vegetable crops, care of poultry, care of farm and household equipment, and procedures for exchange of labor and machinery. Wholesale and local seed dealers cooperated to meet emergency seed requirements.

Labor-saving equipment.- More than 1,000 sets of plans for making labor-saving implements have been supplied by Extension to meet specific requests of farmers. Implements made in largest numbers were buck rakes, hay stackers, lime spreaders, and field cultivators, all by use of salvaged parts of old machinery. One meeting held in Barry County has since resulted in making of 30 or more buck rakes. Their users say that buck rake mounted on old truck chassis saves labor of 2 or 3 men and 2 or 3 teams in haying or in threshing small grain from shock.

Food conservation.- In Pettis County an exchange for surplus foods has been set up. Those having surplus foods to sell or who want to buy a certain product leave their name at chamber of commerce or extension office. Thus, available food reaches those who want it. In addition, canning center has been set up at a school where large pressure cooker, formerly used in hot-school lunch canning, is available for use 3 days a week. Small charge is made to cover operating expenses.

One Pettis County woman uses 10-gallon cream can for home canning. She leaves lid loose so steam will not cause explosion. She uses it on kerosene stove, with water boiling before jars are put in and kept boiling throughout processing.

NEW YORK

July 24, 1943.

Farm labor.- Extension now managing, feeding, and housing 13 camps and is requested to handle 13 more; also managing 7 camps and is asked to take on 5 others--total of 38.

About 1,500 Jamaicans are helping to harvest fruit, vegetables, and other cash crops and do special farm work. Placements made through USES. Of 9 distribution centers, 5 are operated by local agricultural organizations, 1 by State War Council, 3 by FSA. More camps being opened. Jamaicans receive prevailing county farm wage and are guaranteed work for 75 percent of working time. They are paid directly by farmers, who deduct \$1 a day for earnings over \$3, to be sent to worker's family in Jamaica. Men pay camp for housing and meals. Workers are experienced and helpful but not in sufficient numbers to meet all urgent needs for harvest labor.

Local volunteers help with rush jobs in some places. In Orange County 235 school boys and girls and 37 soldiers from West Point flying center saved muckland onions from weeds during recent weekend. Business and professional men in many communities have helped get in hay after regular hours. Some accepted fruits and vegetables as wages or donated services.

Nearly 900 boys from metropolitan New York now on farms in State; names of 250 to 500 others on file. About 50 college boys included. Unsupplied demands amount to about 400. Check being made of others available from area. Boys down to 14 enrolled.

More than 300 women have enrolled in Women's Land Army and more expected. Much of Hudson Valley berry picking being done by college girls and high school boys and girls from metropolitan area.

Feeds.— Feed situation growing worse. Poultrymen are advised to start no more chicks this season, to cancel all chick orders, to cull flocks rigidly each week, to dispose of all broilers at 2½ to 3 pounds and all surplus male birds and meat birds immediately, to use pasture crops as much as possible, to prevent waste by every means.

Pastures have been good and hay yields may nearly equal last year's high production; or about 20 percent more than 10-year average (1932-41). But State production of feed grains is below 10-year average: Winter wheat, -23 percent; rye, -24 percent; oats, -47 percent; barley, -31 percent; corn, -4 percent.

4-H Club work.— Enrollment in clubs now 62,000, increase of 75 percent over last year. Slogan, "Serve, Save, and Sacrifice for Victory," leads members to aid in volunteer programs for food production, conservation, and other useful services.

Victory Gardens.— Current county reports indicate over 1,500,000 family plot gardens in State, probably aggregating 200,000 acres. Potential supply of vegetables from these gardens should exceed State's commercial production.

Food preservation.— Increasing demand for information on food preservation is result of rationing, expanded home food production, and publicity for home food preservation. Many homemakers now preserving for first time and asking for instruction. Inadequate supply of pressure cookers brings increased demand for facts on other methods.

Specialists working on plans for storage places for canned foods and root vegetables. Large number of home demonstration agents and instructors, as well as 4-H Club workers, devoting major part of time to food preservation program. Trained county leaders are teaching and also serving as information centers. To date about 10,000 volunteer local leaders have been recruited to assist in program.

Food information service.— Extension program to help move perishable foods at time of greatest abundance has been expanded and tied in with similar efforts of other agencies. This service keeps urban families abreast of changing food situation and suggests diet adjustments to meet best nutrition standards from available foods. Information is released through home demonstration agent, who checks with local sources on peak supply of crops so that service can be accurately localized. Handbook on nutritive value and use of fruits and vegetables is in process.

Farm machinery.— In first 5 months of year, 15 district agricultural engineers supervised and assisted owners in repair of more than 5,000 pieces of farm machinery. Most of work was done at neighborhood or community clinics with a few machines of different types to show job may be done at home. More than 19,000 farmers attended clinics.

Fruit.- Despite careful planning by growers, prospects for good fruit crop are not promising. Unusual winter cold destroyed so many peach buds that 1943 crop probably will be less than 20 percent of normal. Many peach trees will have to be replaced. Other fruit trees bloomed heavily but met with poor pollination weather. Growers were helped with hand pollination, which proved valuable. Wet weather interfered with spraying. Apple scab will be serious, and rots will cause loss to cherries, prunes, and berries. Careful plans being made for getting through anxious harvest season without further losses. Growers are kept informed on package situation. Extension will assist, as before, in training of inexperienced harvest help.

WASHINGTON
July 30, 1943

Farm labor.- First big peak for farm labor demand on decline. Hay, berry, and early fruit crops harvested without more than usual loss in periods when labor was abundant. This is largely because Washington farmers, city folks, put harvesting on community basis and helped one another. Women and children by thousands responded to appeal to save food, and Mexican workers helped great deal. Plans now being made for second big recruitment push when around 100,000 hands will be needed for harvest of apples, pears, potatoes, hops, and other late crops early in fall. Volunteer community farm labor committees still working hard and have been a salvation.

Food preservation.- Food-preservation schools being held in great majority of communities in State; also number of community canning centers being organized, largely by extension workers. "Save the Food" leaflet sent from State office in volume; features storing, drying, brining, and mentions canning and freezing. Some counties will give mass distribution through neighborhood leaders.

4-H Club camps.- County or district camps are being held or have just wound up in majority of counties. These were found ideal substitute for annual State-wide gathering postponed because of war. Camps are packed with entertainment and instruction. They are scheduled when they will not affect local harvests or transportation.

Feeds.- Situation is becoming so serious great emphasis now placed on it by Extension. Specialists concerned are giving feed situation a leading part in many projects. Every effort being made to get farmers to produce and save all the feed and fodder they can.

Fall Victory Garden.- Campaign for fall gardens getting under way. Streamlined bulletin released to augment regular garden bulletin. Publicity campaign opening with a radio program, used on virtually every station in State, given by extension horticulturist in charge of fall garden campaign.

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